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## SOLAR OBSERVATIONS

## SOLAR RADIATION MEASUREMENTS DURING DECEMBER, 1931

By HERBERT H. KIMBAL, in charge, solar radiation investigations

For a description of instruments and their exposures, the reader is referred to the January, 1931, REVIEW, page 41.

Table 1 shows that solar radiation intensities averaged above the normal values for December at Washington and Madison and close to normal at Lincoln.

Table 2 shows an excess in the total solar radiation received on a horizontal surface at Chicago, New York, and Miami as compared with the December normals for the respective stations; close to normal at Pittsburgh, and a deficit at Washington, Madison, Lincoln, Twin Falls, Fresno, Gainesville, and La Jolla. The last line in the table gives annual departures in percentages of annual totals.

Skylight polarization measurements made on 4 days at Washington give 61 for the mean percentage of polarization, with a maximum of 65 per cent on the 2d and 6th. At Madison, polarization measurements made on three days early in the month give a mean of 72 per cent with a maximum of 77 per cent on the 1st. These are above the corresponding averages for each station in December.

TABLE 1.—Solar radiation intensities during December, 1931

[Gram-calories per minute per square centimeter of normal surface]  
Washington, D. C.

Date	Sun's zenith distance										Local mean solar time	
	8 a. m.	78.7°	75.7°	70.7°	60.0°	0.0°	60.0°	70.7°	75.7°	78.7°		
	75th mer. time	Air mass										
		A. M.						P. M.				
		e.	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0		5.0
Dec. 2.....	mm.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	mm.	
Dec. 7.....	2.49	0.79	0.98	1.09	1.31	-----	-----	1.12	0.95	0.85	2.74	
Dec. 15.....	3.15	1.00	1.18	1.36	-----	-----	-----	1.12	0.86	0.75	2.26	
Dec. 16.....	3.30	0.90	1.06	1.11	1.33	-----	-----	1.06	0.83	0.58	2.87	
Dec. 23.....	3.81	0.97	1.13	1.38	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	2.74	
Dec. 23.....	8.18	0.93	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	6.02	
Means.....	0.87	0.99	1.13	1.34	-----	-----	-----	1.10	0.88	0.73	-----	
Departures.....	+0.08	+0.09	+0.08	+0.11	-----	-----	-----	+0.06	-0.03	-0.06	-----	

## Madison, Wis.

Dec. 1.....	2.49	-----	-----	1.23	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1.96
Dec. 2.....	2.87	-----	-----	1.23	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	3.00
Dec. 3.....	3.30	0.95	1.04	1.18	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	3.15
Dec. 7.....	1.37	-----	-----	1.34	-----	-----	1.26	-----	-----	1.24
Dec. 14.....	2.36	1.10	1.15	1.10	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	2.26
Means.....	(1.02)	(1.10)	1.21	(1.42)	-----	-----	(1.26)	-----	-----	-----
Departures.....	+0.06	±0.00	±0.00	+0.07	-----	-----	+0.02	-----	-----	-----

## Lincoln, Nebr.

Dec. 1.....	2.36	1.05	1.13	1.29	-----	-----	1.23	1.09	0.88	3.30
Dec. 2.....	3.00	-----	-----	1.20	-----	-----	1.23	1.12	1.02	4.17
Dec. 11.....	6.50	0.99	1.19	-----	-----	-----	1.25	1.11	1.00	3.81
Dec. 14.....	2.26	0.90	1.09	1.26	-----	-----	1.23	1.11	-----	3.00
Dec. 15.....	2.62	0.79	1.04	1.10	-----	-----	1.21	1.07	1.05	3.30
Dec. 16.....	3.15	0.84	0.99	1.15	-----	-----	1.15	1.04	-----	3.63
Means.....	0.90	1.05	1.20	-----	-----	-----	1.22	1.09	0.99	-----
Departures.....	-0.04	-0.01	-0.02	-----	-----	-----	+0.02	+0.02	+0.03	-----

1 Extrapolated.

TABLE 2.—Total solar radiation (direct + diffuse) received on a horizontal surface

[Gram-calories per square centimeter]

Week, beginning	Average daily totals										
	Washington	Madison	Lincoln	Chicago	New York	Twin Falls	Pittsburgh	Gainesville	Fresno	La Jolla	Miami
1931	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.
Dec. 3.....	156	115	110	90	112	103	85	142	163	220	376
Dec. 10.....	133	113	156	112	85	163	78	187	170	250	367
Dec. 17.....	118	74	137	90	83	118	82	189	169	188	364
Dec. 24.....	137	66	87	64	160	101	65	204	122	202	274
Dec. 31.....	137	66	87	64	160	101	65	204	122	202	274
Departures from weekly normals											
Dec. 3.....	+8	-6	-55	+18	+22	-37	+5	-76	-14	-42	+73
Dec. 10.....	-5	+1	-1	+40	-5	+37	+10	-22	+2	-10	+69
Dec. 17.....	-22	-47	-33	+13	-12	-10	+15	-14	+8	-69	+36
Dec. 24.....	-5	-58	-88	-16	+58	-51	-19	-36	-25	-36	-4
Departures from annual normals											
Gr. cal./	-1,750	+1,965	-445	+2,933	+2,893	-5,846	-1,420	-----	+1,718	-----	-----
cm.²	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Percentage	-1.4	+1.2	-0.3	+3.2	+3.1	-3.9	-----	-----	+1.1	-----	-----

## POSITIONS AND AREAS OF SUN SPOTS

[Communicated by Capt. J. F. Hallweg, Superintendent United States Naval Observatory. Data furnished by Naval Observatory, in cooperation with Harvard, Yerkes, Perkins, and Mount Wilson observatories. The differences of longitude are measured from central meridian, positive west. The north latitudes are plus. Areas are corrected for foreshortening and are expressed in millionths of sun's visible hemisphere. The total area, including spots and groups, is given for each day in the last column.]

Date	Eastern standard civil time	Heliographic			Area		Total area for each day
		Diff. long.	Longi- tude	Latitude	Spot	Group	
1931							
Dec. 1 (Mount Wilson).....	13 50	° +47.0	° 311.5	° +13.0		9 137	
Dec. 2 (Naval Observatory).....	10 30		No spots				
Dec. 3 (Naval Observatory).....	10 33		No spots				
Dec. 4 (Mount Wilson).....	12 0	-63.0	162.9	+12.0		67	67
Dec. 5 (Naval Observatory).....	10 35		No spots				
Dec. 6 (Naval Observatory).....	10 23	-76.0	124.4	+12.0	31		31
Dec. 7 (Naval Observatory).....	10 36	-54.0	133.1	+11.5		170	170
Dec. 8 (Naval Observatory).....	12 47	-40.0	132.8	+11.5		278	278
Dec. 9 (Yerkes Observatory).....	15 9	-28.5	129.9	+10.4	5		
		-27.7	130.7	+11.7		138	
		-27.7	130.7	+10.6	17		
		-27.6	130.8	+10.0	17		
		-26.1	132.3	+10.0	3		
		-25.2	133.2	+13.8	5		
		-25.1	133.3	+13.0	3		
		-25.1	133.3	+12.2		14	
		-22.8	135.6	+12.5	107		
		-21.6	136.8	+11.9	210		519
Dec. 10 (Naval Observatory).....	10 17	-38.0	109.8	+4.0		62	
		-14.0	133.8	+11.0		340	402
Dec. 11 (Naval Observatory).....	11 20	-23.0	111.0	+4.0		154	
		-1.0	133.0	+11.0		401	555
Dec. 12 (Yerkes Observatory).....	14 18	-10.2	109.1	+4.3	7		
		-9.7	109.6	+5.3	5		
		-9.3	110.0	+4.1	2		
		-6.3	113.0	+4.3		48	
		-5.4	113.9	+4.7	22		
		+10.5	129.8	+10.2	88		
		+11.1	130.4	+11.0	2		
		+11.9	131.2	+11.2	2		
		+13.6	132.9	+11.7		159	
		+16.6	135.9	+12.2	37		
		+17.7	137.0	+12.4	37		419
Dec. 13 (Mount Wilson).....	11 30	+4.0	111.6	+5.0		41	
		+26.0	133.6	+12.0		298	339

## Positions and areas of sun spots—Continued

Date	Eastern standard civil time	Heliographic			Area		Total area for each day	
		Diff. long.	Longi- tude.	Lat- tude.	Spot	Group		
1931								
Dec. 14 (Naval Observatory) .....	12 43	A	m	°	°	°		
				+21.0	114.7	+4.0	15	
				+39.0	132.7	+12.0		278
Dec. 15 (Naval Observatory) .....	11 20			+33.0	114.3	+4.0	25	
				+50.0	131.3	+11.0		123
Dec. 16 (Naval Observatory) .....	10 30			+47.0	115.6	+4.0	15	
				+63.0	131.6	+11.0		93
Dec. 17 (Naval Observatory) .....	10 39			+78.0	133.4	+11.0		93
Dec. 18 (Naval Observatory) .....	11 36			+69.0	132.7	+11.0	93	93
Dec. 19 (Naval Observatory) .....	10 37			+55.0	133.0	+11.5	93	93
Dec. 20 (Naval Observatory) .....	10 48			+41.5	134.3	+11.0		46
Dec. 22 (Yerkes Observatory) .....	14 23			+12.6	134.9	+12.1	15	15
Dec. 23 (Naval Observatory) .....	10 37			+4.0	132.3	+11.0		31
				+46.0	22.3	+14.0	31	
Dec. 24 (Mount Wilson) .....	11 0			+80.0	242.9	+2.0		47
				+80.0	242.9	+12.0	84	
				+5.0	327.9	+9.5		28
				+59.5	22.4	+11.0		27
Dec. 25 (Yerkes Observatory) .....	13 26			+64.9	243.6	+18.4	284	
				+59.0	249.5	+2.5	19	
Dec. 26 (Naval Observatory) .....	11 24			+54.0	242.4	+12.0	108	
				+47.0	249.4	+1.5	15	
Dec. 27 (Naval Observatory) .....	14 10			+40.0	241.7	+14.0	139	
Dec. 29 (Naval Observatory) .....	15 2			+13.0	241.9	+18.0		139
Dec. 30 (Naval Observatory) .....	12 49			+1.0	241.9	+13.0		139
Mean daily area for December .....								175

## PROVISIONAL SUN-SPOT RELATIVE NUMBERS, FOR DECEMBER, 1931

(Data dependent alone on observations at Zurich and its station at Arosa)  
(Data furnished through the courtesy of Prof. W. Brunner, University of Zurich, Switzerland)

December, 1931	Relative numbers	December, 1931	Relative numbers	December, 1931	Relative numbers
1.....	20	11.....	a 35	21.....	8
2.....	16	12.....	37	22.....	16
3.....	7?	13.....	a 38	23.....	17
4.....		14.....	37	24.....	d 23
5.....	0	15.....	26	25.....	31
6.....	Ec 7	16.....		26.....	31
7.....	12	17.....	15	27.....	31
8.....	13	18.....	8	28.....	15
9.....	24	19.....	8	29.....	9
10.....	Ec —	20.....	8	30.....	a 11
				31.....	9

Mean: 28 days=18.3.

a= Passage of an average-sized group through the central meridian.  
b= Passage of a large group or spot through the central meridian.  
c= New formation of a center of activity: E, on the eastern part of the sun's disk; W, on the western part; M, in the central zone.  
d= Entrance of a large or average-sized center of activity on the east limb.

## AEROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

[The Aerological Division, W. R. GREGG, in charge]

By L. T. SAMUELS

Free-air temperatures were decidedly above normal and relative humidities were close to normal at all stations for December.

At the 1,000-meter level the resultant wind directions were close to normal at the northern stations but contained a considerably greater south component than normal at most of the southern stations. Resultant velocities were somewhat above normal at most stations.

At 3,000 meters the resultant directions were close to normal except at the extreme southern stations. At Key West a pronounced easterly component persisted to 4,000 meters as compared to the normal westerly direction at that level. Resultant velocities at 3,000 meters exceeded the normal appreciably in New England and at some southern stations.

TABLE 1.—Mean free-air temperatures and humidities obtained by airplanes (or kites) during December, 1931

Altitude (meters) m. s. l.	TEMPERATURE (°C)									
	Chicago, Ill. <sup>1</sup> (190 meters)	Cleveland, Ohio <sup>1</sup> (245 meters)	Dallas, Tex. <sup>1</sup> (149 meters)	Due West, S. C. <sup>2</sup> (217 meters)	Ellendale, N. Dak. <sup>1</sup> (444 meters)	Hampton Roads, Va. <sup>1</sup> (3 meters)	Omaha, Nebr. <sup>1</sup> (289 meters)	Pensacola, Fla. <sup>3</sup> (2 meters)	San Diego, Calif. <sup>3</sup> (9 meters)	Washington, D. C. <sup>3</sup> (2 meters)
Surface.....	1.7	2.3	7.2	9.1	-6.0	8.1	0.1	16.3	12.4	3.2
500.....	1.7	2.3	8.7	9.8	-5.4	7.2	0.7	15.9	10.8	4.6
1,000.....	1.3	1.5	8.6	9.9	-1.0	6.1	2.4	15.7	8.7	4.2
1,500.....	0.9	0.3	8.0	9.5	-0.1		3.0			
2,000.....	0.0	-0.8	6.7	7.9	-1.9	4.1	1.7	12.1	4.9	1.8
2,500.....	-1.7	-2.5	4.8	6.0	-4.3		-0.6			
3,000.....	-4.0	-4.8	2.6	3.4	-6.8	0.6	-3.1	7.0	0.9	-0.4
4,000.....	-9.4	-9.3	-3.9		-13.7		-9.5		-5.7	
5,000.....	-16.5	-14.6	-11.0		-19.7		-16.7		-13.6	
6,000.....			-16.2				-23.9			
	RELATIVE HUMIDITY (PER CENT)									
	85	82	86	87	88	76	86	90	59	77
Surface.....	85	82	86	87	88	76	86	90	59	77
500.....	79	78	72	76	85	66	79	82	58	67
1,000.....	67	72	58	66	60	64	60	73	54	60
1,500.....	57	63	51	54	52		43			
2,000.....	49	56	45	53	56	41	37	63	40	46
2,500.....	45	50	42	42	56		36			
3,000.....	44	49	37	34	56	32	36	65	34	32
4,000.....	40	44	35		83		35		36	
5,000.....	30	39	36		65		32		60	
6,000.....			10				24			

<sup>1</sup> Airplanes (Weather Bureau).

<sup>2</sup> Kites.

<sup>3</sup> Airplanes (Navy).